

DRAFT**Amendments to the Claims**

21. (Currently amended) A method for generating a hepatic cell culture comprising:
co-culturing hepatocytes and nonparenchymal cells derived from disaggregated liver tissue, in the presence of
(a) one or more growth factors that support the growth of hepatocytes comprising epidermal growth factor or hepatocyte growth factor and
(b) ~~a matrix wherein said matrix is a beads~~ coated with at least one biologically active molecule extracellular matrix protein that promotes cell adhesion under conditions sufficient to allow for the proliferation of said hepatocytes while retaining hepatic function of said hepatocytes.
22. (Canceled) ~~A method for generating a hepatic cell culture comprising:
established hepatic cell lines comprising hepatocytes and non parenchymal cells,
in the presence of
(a) one or more growth factors that support the growth of hepatocytes and
(b) a matrix wherein said matrix is a bead coated with at least one biologically active molecule that promotes cell adhesion under conditions sufficient to allow for the proliferation of said hepatocytes while retaining hepatic function of said hepatocytes.~~
23. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 21 ~~or 22~~ wherein the ~~matrix is the form of~~ ^{beads are} polystyrene beads.
24. (Canceled) ~~The method of claim 21 or 22 wherein the matrix is coated with an extracellular matrix protein.~~
25. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 21 ~~or 22~~ wherein the ~~matrix is coated with~~ extracellular matrix protein is type I collagen.
26. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 21 ~~or 22~~ wherein the growth factor is epidermal growth factor.
27. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 21 ~~or 22~~ wherein the growth factor is hepatocyte growth factor.

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28.(Currently Amended) A population of hepatocytes and nonparenchymal cells, derived using a method comprising:

co-culturing hepatocytes and nonparenchymal cells, derived from disaggregated liver tissue, in the presence of

(a) one or more growth factors that support the growth of hepatocytes comprising epidermal growth factor or hepatocyte growth factor and

(b) ~~a matrix wherein said matrix is a beads~~ coated with at least one biologically active molecule extracellular matrix protein that promotes cell adhesion under conditions sufficient to allow for the proliferation of said hepatocytes while retaining hepatic function of said hepatocytes.

29. (Canceled) ~~A population of hepatocytes and nonparenchymal cells, derived using a method comprising:~~

~~co-culturing established hepatic cell lines comprising hepatocytes and non-parenchymal cells, in the presence of~~

~~(a) one or more growth factors that support the growth of hepatocytes and~~

~~(b) a matrix wherein said matrix is a bead coated with at least one biologically active molecule that promotes cell adhesion under conditions sufficient to allow for the proliferation of said hepatocytes while retaining hepatic function of said hepatocytes.~~